



National Archives and Records Administration

8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001

June 30, 2006

Dear Colleagues,

NARA is currently in the process of updating our 10-year Strategic Plan for 2007-2017. In doing so, we are again seeking the input of our colleagues in the greater archival, records management, and historical communities. Our Strategic Plan reflects our vision for the future and helps us identify where we are headed and the path that will take us there. It is a guide to help us allocate resources in a changing environment and to focus our work.

The content of the new Plan is different than that of previous ones. Changes in the Federal Government, in our society, and in the nature of records themselves drive us to change the way we do business and how we address the needs of all our users. For example, a new emphasis on raising civic literacy in our nation has given us a greater focus on educational programs for all ages. Concerns over the loss of vital records in natural and manmade disasters have given rise to our "First Preservers" initiative. And the increasing demand of users for more online access to records has driven us to increase our efforts to reduce the backlog of unprocessed records and work with partners to get more of our records online.

NARA serves a number of constituencies, and we have heard from many of them in past months. I sincerely appreciate the time, thoughts, and ideas that you and your members shared with us so we may serve you better in the next decade.

I am happy to report that a draft Strategic Plan is now ready for review. We have endeavored to include the multi-faceted expertise of our staff and stakeholders. Each submission was given full consideration, and I believe you'll find this careful analysis reflected in the draft which is posted on the National Archives web site (www.archives.gov/about/plans-reports/strategic-plan/2007/index.html).

I invite your participation once again before the final Strategic Plan is issued in September. Please forward additional ideas, questions, or concerns to vision@nara.gov by close of business Friday, July 21, 2006.

I look forward to hearing from you, and send thanks for your continued interest in the strategic development of NARA.

Sincerely,

ALLEN WEINSTEIN
Archivist of the United States